

his spasms, madness and distorted judgment. At Waterloo, during the critical period of the battle's progress, not a word of command or advice could be obtained from him, for he sat mute, utterly regardless of surroundings, and it was only by forcible removal from the field his life was saved. What, asks the writer, would have been the political aspect of Europe to-day had it not been for Napoleon's epilepsy?
A. F.

Asylum Notes.

BY MARGARET A. CLEAVES, M.D.

PENNSYLVANIA—A NEW STATE ASYLUM.

The bill providing for the selection of a site for the chronic insane, to be called the State Asylum, and appropriating \$500,000 therefor, has been approved by the Governor. The following Commission to select the site and build the hospital has been appointed by the same power: Dr. John Curwen, Warren; Wharton Baker, Philadelphia; Hon. John B. Storm, Monroe Co.; Hon. John M. Reynolds, Bedford, and Henry M. Dechert.

PENN. HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

There is in course of construction by the managers of this hospital a new wing which is to be completed in October and will provide room for forty additional women. The vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Brush to accept the superintendency of the Moses Sheppard Asylum, has been filled by the appointment of Dr. A. R. Moulton, recently Inspector of Institutions of Massachusetts.

Dr. Moulton, who paid a brief visit to England during the summer, in the interests of his work, entered upon his duties at the Pennsylvania Hospital, August 15th, 1891.

APPOINTMENTS.

Dr. James W. Babcock, Assistant Physician at the McLean Asylum in Somerville, has been appointed Superintendent of the State Asylum at Columbia, S. C.

Dr. Carlos J. MacDonald, President of the State Commission in Lunacy, has been appointed Lecturer on Mental Diseases at the Albany Medical College.

THE JOHNS-HOPKINS HOSPITAL AND THE CLINICAL STUDY OF INSANITY.

During the past year the Superintendent, Dr. Hurd, of this hospital, delivered weekly lectures in the amphitheatre upon "Insanity in its Clinical Aspects," while one hour weekly was given to cases of mental disease applying at the dispensary.

It is by such work as this that the medical profession will obtain that familiarity with mental disease which will enable them to recognize it more often in its incipient stages, to supervise more intelligently its immediate treatment, and to judiciously advise as to the necessity for hospital care.

We trust that the Johns-Hopkins Hospital will develop this department of medicine to its fullest extent, as with the scope of its work and equipment it is fully able to do.

For the highest success in the development of psychiatry, it is imperative that the mass of the profession should have a much more varied clinical knowledge of insanity than they now possess. To this end, insanity and its treatment should form an essential part of medical education and examination.

STATE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

For the year ending October 31st, 1891, the net profit on the farm garden and dairy connected with this hospital was \$10,941.48, a profit, says the Warden, "which is most satisfactory and largely contributed to by the employment of patients' labor, under the supervision of intelligent employees."

To state in dollars and cents to what extent insane patients contribute to their support, not only appeals to but is comprehended by the average mind. But who can estimate the gain to the patients themselves? By employment their faculties are aroused to effort and persistently stimulated to action. Neither muscle, nerve nor brain are

strengthened by disuse, and employment for the insane, besides bringing a distinct pecuniary gain to the State, is absolutely imperative for the improvement and recovery of the patient.

Dr. Harris, the Medical Director, refers, in his report, to the influence of music upon disease, and especially mental disease, and says that of twenty-seven patients, members of the brass band for the year, thirteen were discharged recovered.

A careful and discriminating study of sulfonal and paraldehyde has been made within the past two years, the results of which were embodied in the "American Journal of Medical Sciences," for July, 1889, by Dr. Chas. M. Hay. Dr. Hay is now the special pathologist in place of Dr. Gilbert B. Pflowtz, resigned.

Thirty-six autopsies were made during the year. The results in four cases of acute delirious mania are reported. They illustrate the marked vascular derangement found in such cases, also a distinct tendency for the brains to be of lower morphological structure, and further, presented distinct changes in the neuroglia and nerve cells. Upon the duration of the disease, the degree of the latter changes seemed largely dependent. Considering the condition of the vascular and lymphatic systems, this is what should be naturally expected. In the arrangement of the cerebral cortex there were some alterations sufficiently rare to be of note.

STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, MILWAUKEE, WIS.

At this hospital the percentage of recoveries during the last biennial period was forty-seven per cent. Dr. White, the Superintendent, attributed the increase in the recovery rate to the systematic employment in operation during that time. He has demonstrated to his satisfaction that mat and basket making are available in cases heretofore considered incapable of any organized effort, and says that "it has proven to be one of the most valuable adjuncts to the ordinary treatment in recent cases undergoing convalescence, by engrossing their attention, weaning them from their delusions, dispelling their depression of mind and tending to a reestablishment of healthy functional activity generally. Dr. White's point of view is eminently a correct one and he is to be congratulated upon his success in intro-

ducing a new industry into his hospital. There are always patients, both men and women, in every hospital averse or unsuited to the manual labor of farm, garden and house, yet for whom employment is absolutely essential.

A training school has been established in connection with this institution and a class of five women was recently graduated. The fact that the care of insane patients by attendants is as much, if not more, companionship than custody, is coming to be recognized, and intellectual and social qualifications are more and more sought after. In addition to the regular night watch, Dr. White has a service of night nurses who, from 7 P.M. to 6 A.M., are on duty constantly, waiting upon the sick, allaying the fears of the timid, changing and bathing the filthy, and exercising unceasing vigilance over all patients, with a view to preventing possible attempts at suicide. This service must be of great comfort to the patients and afford the physicians at least a degree of relief from an anxiety that is never ending.

The Turkish bath, which has been in use for over a year, has been found a useful adjunct in the treatment of patients.

For the past year the hospital has had the services of a consulting board of eight physicians and surgeons. Dr. White finds they have proven a most valuable acquisition to the hospital, materially increasing its usefulness. Dr. Nicholas Senn is a member of this board.

At a recent conference held by the State Lunacy Commission and Superintendents of State Hospitals for Insane, of New York, it was decided that the State hospitals for the insane should be permitted to receive private patients from any part of the State without restrictions, except those prescribed by law, at a rate not to exceed \$10 per week.

It was also agreed that there are too many patients idle in the State hospitals; and, further, that they might be employed in the promotion of their own improvement and in the better administration of the hospitals, by taking up some industry that may serve the purpose, such as the making of brushes, brooms, mats, rugs, straw braid, baskets, wooden ware, willow ware and other articles, and it was resolved that steps should be taken to that end.

Both the State and her insane are to be congratulated on the step taken by this conference.

At the Manicomio in Rome, which it was the writer's privilege to visit not long since, aside from the patients

employed in the daily household avocations, three hundred men and women were employed in the laundries; men were employed in the carpenter's, boot-maker's and brush-maker's shops. All the cotton, linen and wool used for clothing was woven in the institution; blankets were woven, stockings knitted, clothing made and mended; rag carpets were also woven, and mats and matting, by the yard, were made from Spanish grasses. These latter articles were sold to the Roman merchants.

FRIENDS' ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, FRANKFORD, PHILADELPHIA.

The last report of this institution, now before us, is a very attractive one, contributed thereto by the half dozen excellent photographs which adorn its pages. These consist of views of the main building, of the grounds, of the new gymnasium and employment building, and three interior views of the latter, representing the gymnasium, the work room and the modelling room.

The "Gymnasium and Industrial Hall" is substantially and handsomely built of gray stone, pointed; is finished internally with native hard woods and comprises, besides a spacious hall fitted up for gymnastics, work shops, art rooms, parlor and reception rooms. The gymnasium is in charge of Dr. Carolyn Luadd Hall, a pupil of Dr. Sargent, of Harvard University, and for some years directress of the gymnasium in Bryn Mawr College.

Classes of both male and female patients have been formed, as well as of attendants. Admission to the classes is governed by physical examination. Of the work, Dr. Hall, the Superintendent, says, "The moral effect observable, as well as the increase of physical vigor, strongly commends this form of exercise and recreation, whilst the general improvement in a few cases has been quite marked."

Under the direction of a graduate of the "Pennsylvania Museum and Industrial School of Art," the classes in drawing, painting in water colors and modelling in clay have made commendable progress. As advance is made, wood carving and the use of tools is to be added.

The Frankford Asylum is to be congratulated upon the acquisition of this building and the means with which to carry on the work of physical culture and congenial employment for its inmates.

Aside from the great need that exists for the employment and diversion of insane patients, there is often found among them much of special talent, and even genius, which should be cultivated.

Dr. Anna E. Broomall, of Philadelphia, is gynæcologist of this asylum.

A graduate of the McLean Asylum Training School for Nurses, Somerville, Mass., began last October to give preliminary instruction in some of the duties of nurses to the staff of attendants, with the expectation, on the part of the asylum, of establishing a training school for nurses at an early date.

BELGIAN PRISONS AND MENTAL MEDICINE.

A service of mental medicine has been established in the prisons of Belgium, the decision having received the royal signature March 30th, 1891.

Prisons for the services of alienists are divided into three districts.

The first comprises the prisons of Gand, Termonde, Audenarde, Bruges, Courtrai, Furnes, Gores, Anvers, Malines and Turnhout. This district is in charge of Dr. Jules Morel, Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane at Quislain.

The second district comprises the prisons of Louvain, Liège, Verviers, Huy Arlon, Marché, Neufchateau, Tongres and Hasselt, and is in charge of Dr. Masoin, Professor in the University of Louvain.

The third district comprises the prisons of Bruxelles, St. Gilles, Nivelles, Mons, Charleroi, Tournai, Namur and Dinant. This district is in charge of Dr. Semal, Medical Director of the Hospital for the Insane at Mons.

The rules governing this service provide, that so soon as informed by the director of the prison, that the conduct of a prisoner shows the least anomaly that leads to a suspicion of his mental condition, the alienist of that district must at once examine the prisoner and report result to the central administration. If he finds the prisoner insane he will at once give the director of the prison a certificate of insanity, as provided by the laws in operation.

Furthermore, the alienist is to have access to the papers of detention of the prisoners they examine and to any information concerning them in the power of the officers to give, which they may consider necessary in the performance of their duties.

And they may obtain, also, upon request, the judicial acts concerning the prisoners under their care.

The functions of the alienists are exercised by authority of the Ministry.

It is with pleasure that we call the attention of the profession to this matter. That there are a considerable number of prisoners who, from time to time, during their imprisonment, show signs of insanity, real or simulated, is well known. For the maintenance of discipline, it is necessary that, in the case of maligners, the administration should be promptly informed of the fact.

On the other hand, in the case of the insane, there should be equally prompt action that they may be placed under suitable treatment, preferably in asylums for insane criminals. That experienced alienists can better serve the interests of the State and the individual than others, goes without saying. In a country of such limited territory as Belgium, this service is quite possible. So far as we are informed it is as yet the only country to have established a service of mental medicine in its prisons. The movement is one worthy of great commendation, and one that might well be extended. In addition to its humanity, it offers abundant opportunity for the study of crime in its relation to mental abnormalities and disease.

It is the hope of Dr. Morel that it may help to a quick solution of the question of special asylums for criminal insane; for, as he justly says, "a great proportion of criminals are but lunatics."

SECTION OF PSYCHOLOGY—BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the recent meeting of this association, the opening address of the Section of Psychology was delivered by Dr. P. Maury Deas, Superintendent of Wonford House Hospital, Exeter.

In his address, Dr. Deas reviewed the matter of lunacy legislation in England for the past century, and followed with a critical analysis of the Act of 1890. In this analysis he points out—(1) Those enactments which seem good and useful; (2) those which seem unnecessary or useless; (3) those which seem positively hurtful and objectionable.

While he finds the new law defective, he believes that too much has been made of these defects, and that the only dignified course to pursue is to endeavor to carry out the

provisions of the act loyally, and to minimize rather than to exaggerate any difficulties which may arise. Still he regards the latest form which lunacy legislation has assumed in England as, on the whole, retrograde and disappointing.

Looking to the future, he thinks the following are the directions in which the reform should go :

“ 1. Insanity and its treatment ought to form an integral part of medical education and of medical examination.

2. No one should be allowed to grant a lunacy certificate without being possessed of satisfactory evidence of competency.

3. The same should apply, in a higher degree, to all seeking appointments as medical officers of asylums.

4. The appointment of district medical inspectors and of official certifiers, who should act in consultation with the medical attendant.

5. Inspection should take more the form of provision being made for more frequent visitation of individual patients by independent medical authority, and less of mere inspection of the asylum itself.

6. Diminution of the bureaucratic character of the Board of Commissioners and restriction of their powers, which are now extraordinary and unparalleled; and the Commissioners to form more a medical board, composed of men of special experience in the treatment of the insane, who should assume more responsibility in dealing with individual cases.

7. Great modification in legal formalities. Medical officers ought to be relieved from all responsibility as to the correctness of certificates, orders, etc.

8. The cumbrous and costly method of finding a person insane by inquisition to be done away with, or much simplified, and the visitation of those so found to be secured by the same means as are provided for the insane generally.”

Dr. Deas expresses the truth forcibly when he says in conclusion, “That for the sake of the insane themselves, as well as for the more effectual protection of their friends and the public generally against the consequences of insane conduct and impulses, the proper course is to rely less on legal forms and restrictions, and more on the careful, competent medical examination of the patient before admission, and the judgment and experience of the medical men to whose care he is entrusted, supplemented by the visitation of, and opportunity of consultation with, an independent medical authority.”

The diagnosis of insanity and its proper treatment are emphatically medical questions, although they must necessarily be carried on under legal restrictions.

THE INSANE IN THE UNITED STATES.

According to the Abstract of Sanitary Reports of the United States Marine Hospital Bureau, May 29, 1891, the total number of insane persons treated in both public and private institutions during the year 1889 was 97,535, while during the year 1881 there was 56,205 treated, showing an increase in the nine years of 41,330, or 73.53 per cent. This percentage of increase, when compared with the percentage of increase of the population in the last decade, namely, 24.86, does not indicate an increase in the proportion of insane persons to population, but rather a great increase in the amount of asylum accommodation provided, and a willingness on the part of the public to make full use of all the facilities thus provided. The figures for the actual number of the insane in the United States cannot be determined until the work of eliminating all duplicate reports of cases has been completed.

In 1889 there were thirty-eight private institutions in the United States for the treatment of the insane—twenty-five located in the North Atlantic States, twelve in the North Central States and one in the South Atlantic States.

The ratio to each 1,000 inhabitants of the whole United States of the insane in public institutions is 1.46, and, including both public and private institutions, 1.56.—“Medical News,” July 11, 1891.

POLITICS AND HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

In the August number of this JOURNAL, under the above caption, we find that our deductions were too sweeping, and that the assistant physician who was retained, “contrary to his expectations,” however, is an “uncompromising republican.” He is to be congratulated, both upon his political principles and his retention. But, after all, the congratulations depend upon the point of view.

CLASSIFICATION OF MENTAL DISEASE.

Dornblüth (Münchener med. Wochenschr., June 2, 1891), makes the following classification of the primary forms of mental disease:

(1) Melancholia; (2) Mania; (3) Acute Insanity (Verworrtheit); (4) Acute Dementia; (5) Paranoia; (6) Periodical Insanity; (7) Neurasthenic Insanity; (8) Hysterical Insanity; (9) Hypochondriacal Insanity; (10) Epileptic Insanity; (11) Acute Delirium; (12) Progressive Paralysis (Dementia Paralytica); (13) Cerebral Syphilis.